

TENNESSEE GREEN STAR PARTNERSHIP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



ABB Motors and Mechanical Inc.– Rogersville, TN



By: Caleb Powell

Located in Rogersville, TN, ABB Motors and Mechanical Inc. (ABB) provides the broadest offering of mounted ball bearings in the industry under the brand name Dodge®. For over 100 years, Dodge products have been designed with innovative features to perform reliably in demanding applications throughout the world. In addition to mounted bearings, ABB is the leading marketer, designer, manufacturer, and service provider of industrial electric motors, generators, and mechanical power transmission products. The Rogersville, TN, facility specializes in manufacturing mounted bearings through key processes such as: heat treatment, turning, grinding, machining and assembly.

As one of the largest and oldest manufacturers in Rogersville, TN, ABB's facility has been an integral part of the community since it first opened. The facility launched production in November 1971, producing bearings and bushings under the Dodge® name. Throughout the years the company name has changed from Rockwell Automation to Baldor Electric to ABB but the production type and commitment to quality products has stayed the same. Baldor Electric Company was acquired by ABB in 2011 and became ABB Motors and Mechanical Inc. on March 1, 2018.

With over 200 team members, the mounted ball bearing facility is one of the largest employers in Rogersville and is committed to maintaining a strong relationship with the community in which its employees live and work. This is done through volunteer work, sponsorships, and simply providing a work setting that promotes a cleaner, healthier, and safer environment. The facility is a member of the Rogersville/Hawkins County Chamber of Commerce and the Hawkins County Industrial Development Board, where they are active partners on a range of community projects with other local businesses.

FEATURED THIS MONTH:

- Established 1971
- Employs 231
- Member since 2008

INTERESTING FACTS

- One of the only remaining mounted ball bearing manufacturers in the United States.
- This facility has 24 hour build-on-demand capability.
- ABB has over 7 years without a lost time accident at the Rogersville facility.



Most companies are beginning to realize what ABB has understood for years; the correlation between environmental sustainability and economic profitability. ABB operates in a facility that was built more than 50 years ago, which provides a plethora of opportunities for energy efficiency upgrades and updates. In 2018, the facility transitioned all of the office lighting to LED fixtures and followed up in 2019, with retrofits to all of the high bay facility lights. They upgraded and installed variable speed air compressors to reduce the energy usage while also implementing an ultrasonic leak detection program to identify and repair compressed air leaks. Combining updated technology with a leak program is the best way to capitalize on energy reduction when using compressed air. Currently, ABB is working on process fluid upgrades that will reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) content of their minor source air permit by 30%. ABB is also transitioning to a white roof membrane to help reduce heat gain at the plant. By the end of the year, the Rogersville facility should be finished with replacing nearly 900 tons of roof top and adding HVAC units with ultra-efficiency Carrier units.

As soon as you walk onto the manufacturing floor, it is evident that the employees enjoy what they do and that the management cares about those employees. With the number of long term employees and low turnover rates at the plant, it is obvious that working for a company like ABB Motors and Mechanical Inc. fulfills career goals for the people of Rogersville, TN.

The [Tennessee Materials Marketplace](#) is a collaboration between industries, facilitated by an interactive online materials exchange, to recycle, repurpose, and return material discards back to Tennessee's economy. ABB Motors & Mechanical Inc. learned of the marketplace initiative through its membership in the Tennessee Green Star Partnership.



"We've pledged to take the necessary steps to drive improvements in all aspects of our business such as: workplace safety, environmental impact, responsible sourcing, product design, efficient operations, and continuous improvement projects. These help us to better serve our customers, our employees, and our community."

- Thomas Noe, Manufacturing Engineer & Environmental Coordinator

The [Tennessee Green Star Partnership](#) is a voluntary environmental leadership program designed to recognize industries in the state that are committed to sustainable practices. If you are interested in joining ABB and other sustainable industries in Tennessee by becoming a member, please contact us.